# Lancaster Rural District Council

# REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1939.

Frank N. Shires, Ltd., Lancaster.



# Lancaster Rural District Council

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health For the Year 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the

LANCASTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1939 on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of your District.

This is an ordinary Report and is not intended to include any information regarding A.R.P. Services.

The Report includes that of your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector so far as his activities relate to Health and Sanitary matters.

I am,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. A. TOMB,
Medical Officer of Health.

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# PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

# Medical Officer of Health:

J. A. TOMB, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: KENNETH H. DOCTON \* ‡

First Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: CLIFFORD HYDE \*

Second Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: ERIC WINDER

Clerical Assistant: THOMAS PROCTOR

\* Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

‡ Member Instn. Municipal and County Engineers..

# 1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area:

AREA of the District (Acres)	53,317
POPULATION (Census 1931)	9,697
POPULATION (Registrar General's Estimate 1939)	11,373
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES	
(Census 1931)	2,396
NUMBÈR OF INHABITED HOUSES	
(End of 1939 according to Rate Books)	3,155
Number of Families or separate occupiers	
(Census 1931)	2,454
RATEABLE VALUE	£56,451
Sum represented by a Penny Rate Rate	£237

The chief occupations of the inhabitants of the District are:

Agricultural Work.

Textile Work.

Railway Work.

Building Work.

Quarrying.

There are no evidences of an excess of unemployment in the district.

There is no particular occupation having an influence on the health of the inhabitants.

# 2. Extracts form Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	Male	Female
Live Births (Legitimate)	117	56	61
(Illegitimate)	6	1	5
Total	123	57	66
Birth-Rate per 15000 population	12.3		
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	53		
Danaha	10.1	= .	
Deaths	121	70	51
Stillbirths	7	2	5
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident			
population	11.7		
Deaths from puerperal Causes :		Rate n	er 1000
	Deaths	(live ar	
Puerperal sepsis			Nil
Other puerperal causes			15.38
Total	2		15.38
Dooth water of Information and an array and 1	000 1:		
Death-rate of Infants under one year, per 1,		oirths :—	_
All			
Legitimate			
lllegitimate	Nil		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			5
Deaths from Measles (all ages )			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil

	Per 1000 of Estimated Population				tality ate		
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1.000 live births	Per 1000 total (live and still) births	Rate of deaths under one year per 1000 live births
Mean of 5 yrs.		14.1					
1934-1938 Year—1938	14.5 14.9	14.1	0.52 0.10	1.57	5.63 6.80	5.36 6.49	61 40
Year —1939		*11.7	0.48	0.48	16.26	15.28	24
Increase of Decrease in 1939 on—5 yrs. average, 1934-1938:							
•	2 —2	2.4 —0	.04 —	1.09 +	10.63	+10.02	2 —37
Previous year —2.	.6 —	1.4 + 0	).38 —	1.04	+ 9.46	+ 8.89	—16
* 1939 adjusted			(compa 1,000.		y facto	r 0.86)	

Maternal-

# DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES IN THE YEAR 1939.

	Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES	70	51	121
Influenza	2	_	2
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	4	5
Other Tuberculosis		_	
General Paralysis of the insane, etc		_	_
Cancer	3	. 2	5
Diabetes	1	_	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc	2	2	4
Heart Disease	26	16	42
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	4	7
Bronchitis	2		2
Pneumonia (all forms)		1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases		_	_
Peptic Ulcer	1	_	1
Appendicitis		1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	3	2	5
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	2	4
Puerperal Diseases	_	2	2
Congenital Debility, Premature birth, etc	2		3

Other Liver Diseases  III Defined or Not Known Senility Suicide Other Violence Other Defined Diseases	1	1	1
	4	6	10
	3	-	3
	6	1	7
	8	6	14
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:  Total	2 2 -	1	3 3

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

- (a) Laboratory Facilities. Swabs for Diphtheria are examined at the Isolation Hospital of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board, and other Bacteriological specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory of the Manchester University at Manchester. Analysis of Foodstuffs is carried out under the direction of the Lancashire County Council.
- (b) Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Diseases: The Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board's Ambulance is available.

Other Cases: Lancaster Corporation (Watch Committee) Ambulance is available on payment of 1/- per mile for cases outside the City Boundary.

- (c) Professional Nursing in the Home. The District is provided for by the respective Nursing Associations. The Council does not assist them financially.
- (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics. None in the Area. Tuberculosis patients are dealt with at the Lancashire County Council Dispensary, 8 Middle Street, Lancaster. The nearest Clinic for the treatment of Venereal Diseases is at Preston Royal Infirmary.
- (e) Hospitals: Public and Voluntary.

Infectious Diseases:— The Isolation Hospital of the Lancaster and District Joint Hospital Board, and Smallpox Hospital are available by arrangement.

Other Cases: The Royal Lancaster Infirmary (Voluntary Hospital) situated in Lancaster City.

# 4.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### Water Suply:—

Authority from which supply obtained.
Source of supply.

Nature of supply (e.g., moorland, deep wells, etc.)

Particulars of any new sources of public supply.

Is the supply satisfactory?

Constant or intermittent.

Approx. No. of dwelling-houses with piped supplies (public and private).

Possibilities of contamination.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination.

Any liability to plumbosolvent action?

If piped supply, has the water been examined during the year?

Approx. No. of dwelling houses supplied from wells, springs, streams, etc.

Have these waters been examined during the year?

Any insufficiency, and where.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year.

Drainage and Sawerage:-

Sewage and disposal works, method of treatment.

Lancaster Corporation, Manchester Corporation, Fylde Water Board, Carnforth Waterworks Co. Also wells, roof water, etc.

In bulk form above.

None.

- (a) In quality—Yes, as regards water mains.
- (b) In quantity—Yes, as regards water mains.

Water mains supplies constant.

90%

Nil.

Nil.

Yes, from Thirlmere water which has 2° % of hardness.

Bacteriological examinations: Nil. Chemical analyses: Nil.

About 10%.

Bacteriological examinations: One. Chemical analyses: Three. Results: Two. (Roof) Water—Satisfactory; One (Roof)—Unsatisfactory.

Parts of Parish of Ellel where the mains are now being cleaned.

Nil.

Parish of Slyne-with-Hest: Percolating filter. Effluent into Hatlex Beck.

Parish of Cockerham: Percolating filter. Effluent into dyke.

Parish of Middleton: Contact filters. Effluent into dyke.

Parish of Warton (north section): Outfall into tidal portion of river Kent.

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system.

Parish of Warton (Millhead section): Into Carnforth sewers.

Parish of Ellel (Galgate section): Into tidal portion of river Conder at Conder Green. Parish of Ellel (Dolphinholme section): Septic tank and old contact bed. Effluent into river Wyre.

Parish of Overton: Discharged crude into drainage ditch.

Parishes of Thurnham and Glasson Dock: Into tidal portion of river Lune.

Parish of Bolton-le-Sands: Tidal dyke on foreshore.

It is not considered necessary to establish any system of pipe draining in the remaining parishes, but it is recommended that consideration should be given to some form of treatment to the following outfalls:—Dolphinholme, Overton, Bolton-le-Sands and Warton.

The method of removing sewage from cesspools at Silverdale is found to be quite satisfactory.

Cockerham outfall now treated through septic tank, rotary filter and humas tank Bolton-le-Sands sewer outfall re-laid with 15 in. reinforced concrete pipes.

### Rivers and Streams:-

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams.

Sources and nature of pollution, and new works established (such as artificial silk works, cheese manufactories, etc.), and is there any resultant river polution?

Closet Accommodation at end of 1939 (In this connection note figures at end of 1938).

Inspections are mostly carried out by inspectors of Lancashire Rivers Board, who are notified of observations made

Pollution of dyke at Middleton exists by reason of the I.C.I. works in course of construction, and the military camp at Middleton Towers. The river Lune is also polluted by Messrs. Lansil Ltd. All cases due to war measures.

Privy Middens: No. of middens 378; No. of closets attached to these middens 705.

Does this system still exist in populous and closely built centres? No.

No. of pail closets: 323.

No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens): 20. No. of movable ashbins: 1585.

No. of houses on water carriage system. 2318.

No. of fresh water closets: 2302. No. of waste water closets: 16.

Conversions during the year 1939:-

No. of Privy Closets:

To Fresh W.C.'s ...... 12
To Waste W.C.'s ...... Nil
To Pails, etc. ..... Nil

No. of Pail Closets:

Fresh W.C.'s ...... 7
To Waste W.C.'s ...... Nil

No. of Waste W.C.'s to Fresh W.C.'s ..... Nil

No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles ...... 70

Yes. In parishes where sufficient water supply and sewers are available.

Yes.

Half Cost (Sec. 47 P.H.A. 1936).

Is there any definite scheme at the present time for abolishing privy middens and pail closets?

Does Council contribute towards the cost of conversion?

If so, how much?

### Public Cleansing:-

- (a) The method of collecting dry house refuse.
- (b) The method of collecting refuse from earth closets and privies.
- (c) The method of disposing of dry house refuse.
- (d) The method of disposing of refuse from earth closets and privies.
- (e) The method of cleansing cesspools.
- (f) Arrangements for the disposal of cesspool contents.

If a destructor is provided, state situation.

The whole of the district is Scavenged by a contractor with covered lorries.

By the contractor as above.

Controlled Tipping.

Controlled Tipping.

(Material from excavations in neighbourhood of tips used to cover refuse periodically).

Contractor in Parish of Silverdale. Other parishes by local farmers. Pumped into tank cart.

On the land.

No.

State whether public cleansing is carried out by sanitary authority, contract, or occupiers of houses.

Any extension or improvement during the year in the arrangements?

Are motor vehicles used? If privy middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?

House refuse and emptying of all dry closets carried out by contract for sanitary authority.

Owners of all houses provided with pail closets of W.C. given notice to provide movable receptacle for house refuse.
Yes.

By day.

Sanitary Inspections during 1939 (including Housing):

No. of premises visited.

Defects or nuisances.

No. of notices served.

Legal proceedings.

1,120.

No. discovered 250. No. abated 210 Informal 130. Statutory 1. One.

# Shops and Offices:-

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of:

- (a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.
- (b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc. (See pages 3 and 4 of M. of H. Circular, 1600, dated 1st May, 1937).

Nil.

Nil.

### Camping Sites :--

- (a) No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1939.
- (b) No. of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by local authority under section 269 of the Public Health Act. 1936.

Eleven.

Seven.

It is recommended that the regulations in this respect be amended so as to prevent the establishment of "timber towns." The regulations could authorize tents and trailer caravans only.

### Smoke Abatement:-

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement.

Nil

No. of factory and works chimneys in the district.	Seven.
No. of observations.	Nil.
No. of legal proceedings taken, and result.	Nil.
Particulars of any co-operative action with industry	Nil.
What is the time limit allowed per hour for the emission of black smoke?	No Bye-law.
Swimming Baths and Pools:— Brief particulars of any:	
(a) Public swimming baths or pools.	No public baths or pools in district.
(b) Privately owned swimming baths or pools open to public.	One Parish of Silverdale.
(c) Action taken to secure the satisfactory condition of the water.	Nil.
Eradication of bed bugs:—  Particulars of action taken during 1939:	
No. of houses found to be infested.	Nil.
No. of houses disinfested.	Nil.
Schools :—	
<ul><li>(a) Sanitary condition.</li><li>(b) Water supply</li></ul>	Satisfactory as far as system permits.  All except two supplied Council's mains. Satisfactory. One to be provided, other has private piped spring supply.
Offensive Trades:—	Nil.
Common Lodging Houses:—	No. on register: 1. Condition good.  Date of bye-laws: December 1904. Are they adequate? Yes.
Houses let in lodgings:—	Nil.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.:-	Sites inspected and licensed. One prosecution.
Underground Sleeping Rooms :	None.
Canal Boats :—	No. inspected: Nil. No. of infringements of Acts: Nil.
Rag Flock Act, 1911 and 1928:—	None.

# 5. HOUSING.

Num	nber of new houses erected during the year :—	
(a)	Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	125
	(i) By the local authority	Nil Nil 125
(b)	With State assistance under Housing Acts:	
	(i) By the local authority (included under (a) (i) above (ii) By other Bodies (included under (a) (iii) above	Nil Nil
1. 1	nspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—	
(1)	housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	320
	Number of inspections made for the purpose	542
(2)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	53 68
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	25
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	15
2F	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	6
3. A	Action under statutory powers during the year:-	
(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	24

	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
		(a) By owners (b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil Nil
(b)	*Proc	eedings under Public Health Acts :-	
` '		Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	92
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
		(a) By owners (b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil Nil
(c)	Proc	eedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which	_
	(2)	Demolition Orders were made Number of dwelling-houses demolished in	5
	(3)	pursuance of Demolition Orders	1 5
	(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings have been given under sec. 11	15
(d)	Proc	eedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
	(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were	K1:1
	(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were	Ņil
		determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
4. 1	Housin	ng Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—	
(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of	2
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	3
(b)	_	nber of new cases of overcrowding reported during	A 1 · ·
(c)	the y	year of cases of overcrowding relieved during	Nil
,	, ,	the year	17
* R	efers	only to action taken with regard to housing defe	ects.
Noti	ces w	ith regard to other premises, drainage, and other def	ects

<sup>\*</sup> Refers only to action taken with regard to housing defects. Notices with regard to other premises, drainage, and other defects are included under Sanitary Inspections.

# 6. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

# (a) MILK SUPPLY.

The Milk Supply is good. The Local Authority have not taken any samples of Milk on their own account, but 36 samples of the Milk delivered to the schools, under the Milk in Schools Scheme, have been taken on behalf of the Lancashire County Council. One of these samples was found to contain Tubercle Bacilli and further action was taken by the Lancashire County Council.

The systematic inspection of the 341 dairy farms in the area commenced last year has not been continued owing to war conditions, but up to the outbreak of war 85 inspections were made, and 40 notices served.

There are in the area 341 cowkeepers and 3 dairymen who are not cowkeepers.

# (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Notice of regular hours of slaughtering has been obtained from the occupiers of the 6 licensed Slaughterhouses in the area, with a view to carrying out as far as possible, systematic inspection, but since the outbreak of war all slaughtering has been cerried out at Lancaster City Slaughterhouse.

16 visits were made to these Slaughterhouses during the year, and 3 notices served, and also 12 visits were made to premises where Ice Cream is manufactured and sold.

# (c) ADULTERATION, Etc.

This part of food inspection is dealt with by the Lancashire County Council.

# (d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This is also undertaken by the Lancashire County Council.

# (e) NUTRITION.

Various lectures have been given to the Women's Institutes by the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, and by the Health Propaganda Lecturer of the Lancashire County Council.

# (f) BAKEHOUSES.

There are 8 Bakehouses in the area and their condition is satisfactory. 31 inspections have been made of them and 10 notices served.

# (g) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan).

The Cockle Beds in the area are liable to pollution and were closed in November, 1925.

# 7. Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases.

During the year 20 Scarlet Fever and 7 Diphtheria cases were . notified. These figures show that the incidence of these diseases was less than the average. The Diphtheria cases were mild.

No Schick immunisation was carried out during the year.

A supply of Anti-Toxin for use in cases of Diphtheria is kept at a local Chemist's shop for the benefit of medical practitioners in the area.

Disinfection is carried out following notifiable infectious diseases and tuberculosis, but not measles, and during the year 28 houses were disinfected by Formalin spraying and fumigation.

# NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1939 (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS).

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

Disease	All Ur Ages	der 1- 1 2	2- 3- 3 4								
Scarlet Fever Diphtheria Acute Polionye Pneumonia (Acute Primary Acute Influenza	litis 1 1 &		<u> </u>		3		1 1 —	 	1 	_ _ _ 1	
Puerperal Pyrexia Enteric Fever Cerebro Spinal	1			_	_	1	_	_	_	_	_
Fever Measles Erysipelas	3	1 —		_	1	1				<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	37	1 —	4 1	1	18	4	2	1	1	4	

<sup>18</sup> cases of Scarlet Fever, 7 of Diphtheria, 1 of Enteric Fever, and 1 of Cerebro Spinal Fever were removed to Hospital

There was one death during the year from Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Number of Cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria notified during the previous twelve years.

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria
1939	20	. 7
1938	23	. 6
1937	53	. 20
1936	30	. 36
1935	4	
1934	5	. 16
1933	6	6
1932	5	. 1
1931	8	. 5
1930	31	. 8
1929	16	1
1928	9	. 3

### CANCER.

No special action has been taken to impart information to the public relating to Cancer and facilities available for treatment, but cases are sent from the district to hospitals at Manchester and Liverpool.

5 deaths from Cancer, or approximately 1 in 24, occurred during the year, compared with 15, or 1 in 9, for the year 1938.

The following table gives details of the deaths from Cancer compared with the total deaths for the past 6 years:—

Year	Total Deaths	Cancer Deaths
1934	 141	17
1935	 136	19
1936	 138	12
1937	 147	14
1938	 130	15
1939	 14	5

TUBERCULOSIS.

# New Cases and Mortality during the year 1939.

New Cases					Deaths				
Age	Respiratory.		Other forms		Respiratory. Other forms				
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
0—1		Carriera	-		CHINAMA				
1—5	Con-Municipal Control of Control	-	1		Canada San				
5—10			-						
10—15		1			_	- 1	-		
15—20	-	1	1	-		1			
20—25				_	-	_	_	_	
25—35		3				1			
35—45		-	_		-		-	_	
45—55	-	Colonia de la co	_	1		_	_	_	
5565	1	_				-	-	_	
Over 65		_			_	_	_	_	
	1	5	2	1	-	3	_	_	
Totals	6		3			3			

# Maternity and Child Welfare Work.

This work is carried out by the Lancashire County Council and the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health holds Clinics and Welfare Centres in various parts of the District.

# Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces,

Including Inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Number of Inspections (Factories)	31
Number of Written Notices	10
Prosecutions	Nil







